

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 64, No. 38

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. Home of Air Dominance Training

Sept. 23, 2005

In brief

Change of command

Lt. Col. Jerry Kerby, 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron commander, will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Michael Vaccaro in a ceremony at 3:22 p.m. today in Hangar 5. All are welcome to attend.

Office closure

The Finance Office will close at noon Oct. 7 for an official function. In case of an emergency, call 624-9466 or 625-9340.

Red Cross and FEMA

The Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency will be at the Family Support Center from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to provide direct assistance and answer questions to those impacted by Hurricane Katrina. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 283-4204.

Lithographs available

The 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office has Air Force Core Values-themed lithographs available for free distribution. The PA office is in Bldg. 662, Suite 129. The lithos are for official use only and must be framed for display.

What's inside



Pilots learn to survive in deep blue sea

... PAGES 14-15



Lisa Norman

A run to remember

A group of Tyndall Airmen jog around Flag Park at sunrise Sept. 16 here. The 24-hour vigil run was in remembrance of prisoners of war and those missing in action. A baton is carried throughout the run and eventually passed to a local former POW at the beginning of a retreat ceremony. More than 200 runners took part in the 16-year-old tradition here.

Former POW speaks to Tyndall at luncheon

CHRISSY CUTTITA

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A hero spent lunch hour with Tyndall Airmen Sept. 16, but if you ask him, he'll say he's just an Army machinist doing his job.

However, it was no ordinary lunch hour and he was no ordinary Army Soldier. It was a prisoner of war/missing in action Recognition Day ceremony honored with the presence of Staff Sgt. James Riley and former servicemembers who were also held captive during war.

Sergeant Riley was assigned to the 507th Maintenance Company, Fort Bliss, Texas, when his convoy was ambushed by enemy forces outside Al-Nasiriyah, Iraq March 23, 2003.

"Military service in this time of war is a deadly serious business," said Sergeant Riley. "Mistakes and errors can result in death or capture even when you do everything right. It is the hazard of the occupation."

He was one of six Soldiers captured that day. Others were killed or determined missing. Sergeant Riley and his comrades were finally set free April 13, 2003, eleven days after another convoy member's rescue – Army Private Jessica Lynch.

Sergeant Riley now teaches classes at the U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. Sergeant Riley said public speaking is the hardest thing to do, but he does it to inform other military members to be prepared for what can happen.

The luncheon was held to show a family of joint servicemembers who serve in the same military force, to give appreciation for the sacrifices they have made, and to honor the POWs and MIAs. The lunch-time recognition was also held for inspiration, said Master Sgt. Sandra Thornton, 325th Fighter Wing life skills flight NCO in charge.

"You can inspire others no matter what rank or duty title you hold," said Sergeant Thornton to the audience. "You can change lives and make a difference. Sergeant Riley saved lives serving as a Wingman to his unit members that day and he stands here strongly today, doing his duty without question."

In his speech, Sergeant Riley reminded the crowd that not many others put themselves willingly in danger to preserve the rights we have in America. He reminded the audience that they are among those who volunteered and, with the conflict still going on, they can be put in the same situation he was.

"It is an honor to sit in the presence of our POWs," said Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander. "We are grateful for the service of those who served before us here today and those who serve now for fighting for our nation's freedom. We salute you."

I am an Airman and a Wingman to all other Airmen

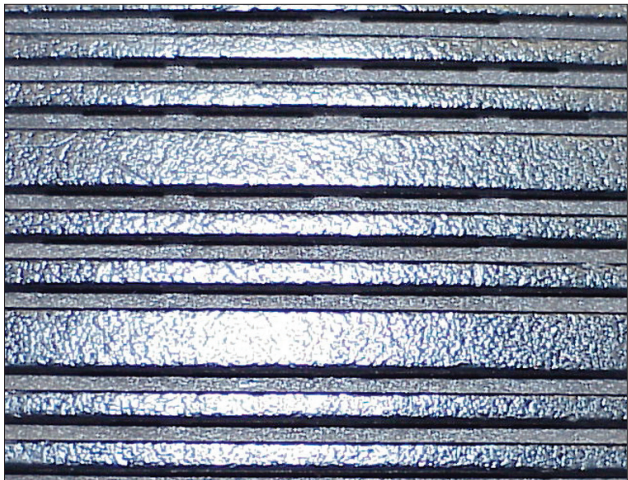


2nd Lt. William Powell

Tiring work

Master Sgt. Brian Stricker, 325th Contracting Squadron, with his daughter, Shelby, rolls a tire to the edge of the sand dunes during the annual Florida Coastal Clean-up Saturday at Tyndall's NCO Beach. More than 226 volunteers showed up Saturday to pick up litter and debris, collecting 1,940 pounds. This year volunteers placed the tires that washed ashore at the edge of the sand dunes in an effort to help protect the dunes against wind erosion.

Identify this...



Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The 'prize' can be claimed at the Public Affairs office. The winner for the Sept. 16 "Identify This" is Senior Airman Mike Zarate, 325th Services Squadron. He correctly guessed that the photo was the shoe brush outside of the Fitness Center. Congratulations, Airman Zarate! Come claim your prize!

ON THE STREET

What is the most significant moment in AF history?



"It was the formation of a separate force from the Army with National Security Act 1947. We've had a long history of outstanding performance, even when under pressure."

1ST LT. RONEN SEGAL
1st Fighter Squadron



"I think it was Sept. 11 because it changed the way people view us and the military as a whole. It was also a time when our country came together as a unit."

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SARAH YARBROUGH
2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit



"I think the most significant time in Air Force history is right now. With all the technological advances we've made, including the F/A-22 Raptor, we don't even have dog-fights anymore."

STAFF SGT. MARCUS SPARKS
372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 4



"I'd say it was when the Air Force became its own specific service."

TECH. SGT. CATHY BERRY
NCO Academy

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted. The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*. For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Action Line: Tyndall member asks about bus service due to high fuel cost

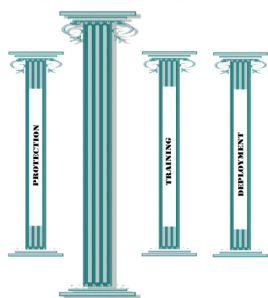
Q: Due to the high cost of fuel, is it possible to coordinate with a bus service downtown to have a bus that goes on base? I have seen this happen at other bases.

A: Thank you for your question regarding public transportation from downtown to Tyndall.

We have contacted the West Florida Regional Planning Council, who manages commuter services for this area, about the possibility of providing public transportation to Tyndall. Currently due to funding, they are not able to provide public transportation services directly to Tyndall; however, they have offered and are available to assist Tyndall personnel who desire to arrange commuter programs to assist with getting back and forth to Tyndall. Their programs are designed to help residents save money and time on their commute to work.

If you would like more information on available commuter programs for the local area, contact Lonnie Walls, 325th Logistics Readiness Division, at 283-9674/4314.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



CSAF looks at AF accomplishments, goals

(Editor's note: The following is a letter from Gen. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff of the Air Force)

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force,
We are a nation at war. Today marks the 1,447th day we've been fighting in Operation Enduring Freedom. World War II lasted 1,347 days. We've now been fighting the Global War on Terror for three months longer than WWII. From the day Desert Storm kicked off Jan. 17, 1991, the Air Force has been in continuous combat. For 14 years our enemies have shot at us and for 14 years we've returned the favor. But no matter how long the road, we must never lose our focus on winning this fight.

Today, we are encouraged more than ever ... from across the globe to here at home. From taking the fight to the enemy in Iraq; to rebuilding in the wake of Hurricane Katrina; to controlling satellites on the other side of the world; to fighting forest fires in the Rockies; to patrolling the skies over America – you can be proud to be a member of an Air Force family that has more than 106,000 Airmen assigned or deployed to 64 countries, on every continent, and in every time zone throughout the world.

We have handled each and every task brought before us with lethal efficiency, because of you. It is an honor to work and fight alongside you in service to our republic. The 684,000

active, Reserve, Guard and civilians of the U.S. Air Force are truly a total force. We stand alongside our Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine brethren ready to answer the nation's call. We fight together. We triumph together. Our promise to the joint team is that as Airmen we will always be the best in the world at what we do: dominating air and space from 1 inch above the ground to 100,000 miles above the earth.

Today we have three major challenges facing our Air Force. First and foremost is accomplishing the combatant tasks the president and secretary of defense assign. The tasks will be ones we've done before and ones we've never undertaken. Second, we must preserve that which makes us the most feared air force in the world – our people. Our culture of excellence must continue to develop Airmen ... Airmen who are the most adaptable, most skilled, most professional and most lethal the world has ever known. Third, we face the difficult task of operating the oldest inventory in the history of the Air Force. My senior leadership will work to break this vicious cycle. I need you, our Airmen on the line, to continue to make missions happen.

As we work toward a more secure, more peaceful tomorrow ... look around. Behind us you'll see a proud, rich heritage. And in front of us is a limitless horizon. So let's push it up, go to work and make the mission happen.

Desert is not only place for expeditionary force

LT. COL. TIM REED

325th Contracting Squadron commander

Where do you work?

Many answer that question with, "Tyndall Air Force Base." Occasionally an Airman might add that they also work at a desert base when they are deployed. While both answers are correct, recent events remind us that we must be prepared to "work" anywhere in the world.

In the past year, the Air Force has continued to transform into an expeditionary Air Force. By now we all

know which "bucket" or deployment exposure timeframe we are members of. Most of us have been through a deployment or two under the new paradigm, and we continue to prepare our families for the changes that occur when we deploy.

We should, however, use great caution in allowing ourselves to develop a mindset in which we envision our expeditionary Air Force role as rotating in and out of existing desert bases.

Consider this example. In the past two weeks contingency contracting of-

icers have procured medical facilities, sand bags, excavators, electric generators, water purification, road paving, latrines and showers. If I asked you to name an operating location where you think we might be purchasing these items, you might guess Kirkuk Iraq, or Bagram, Afghanistan.

It may surprise you to hear, however, that these items are not from a list bought in the Central Command area of responsibility. The items were

● SEE AEF PAGE 10

Action Line Call 283-2255



BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response or

you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

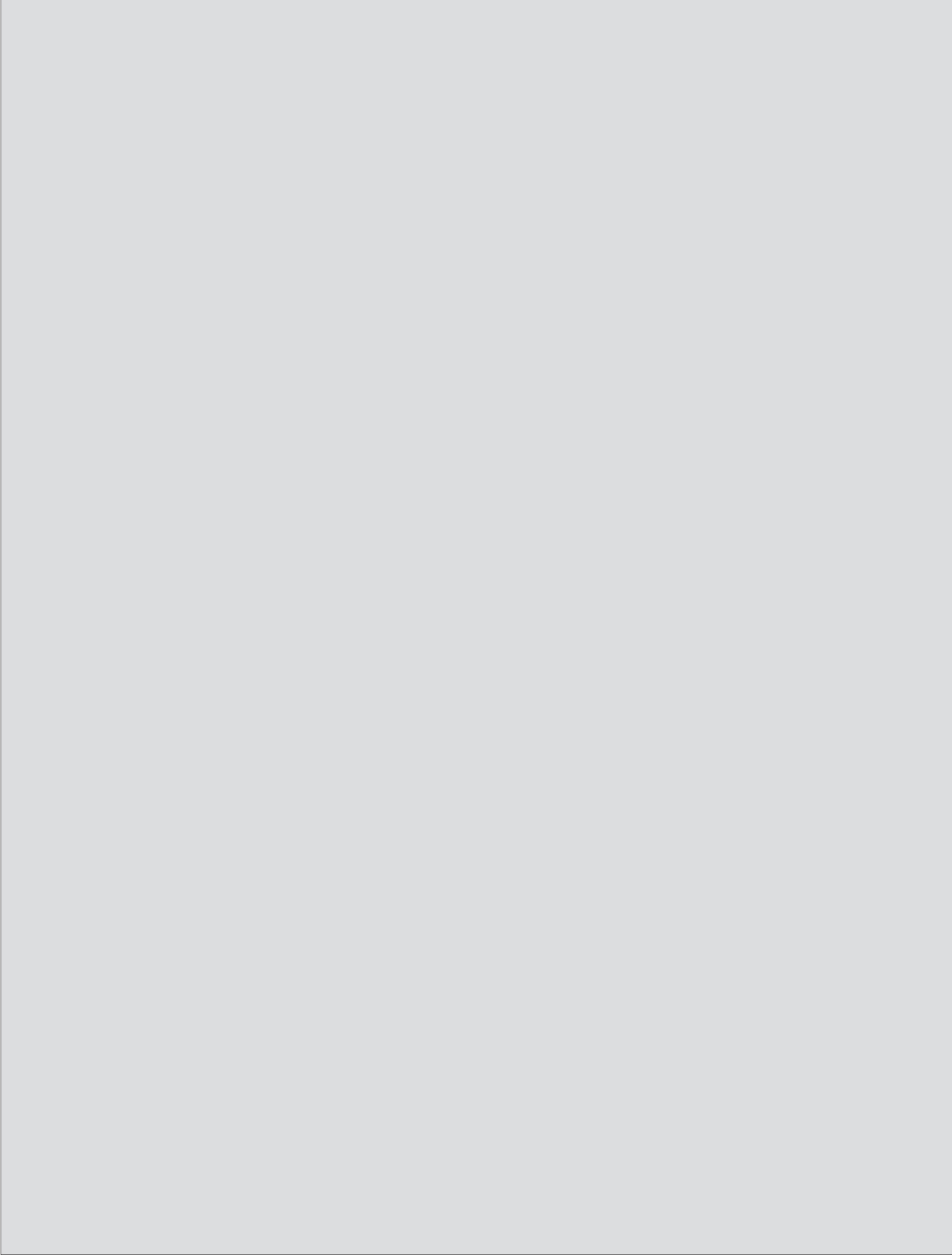
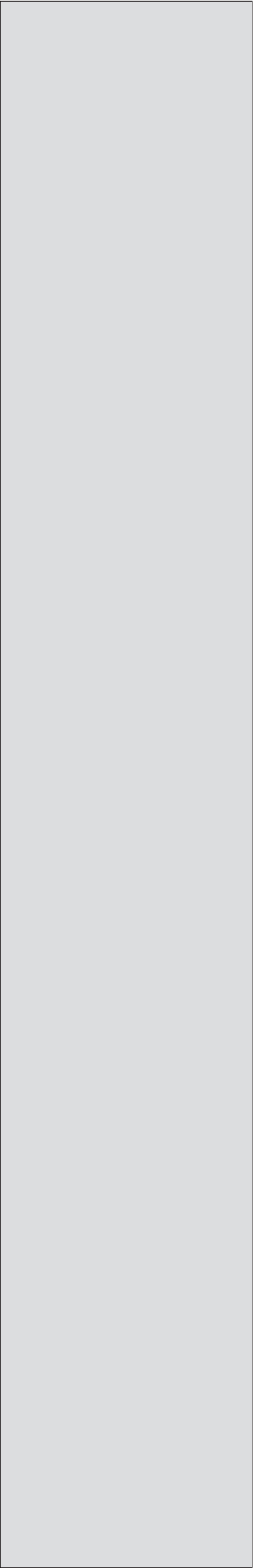
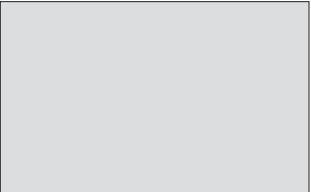
Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

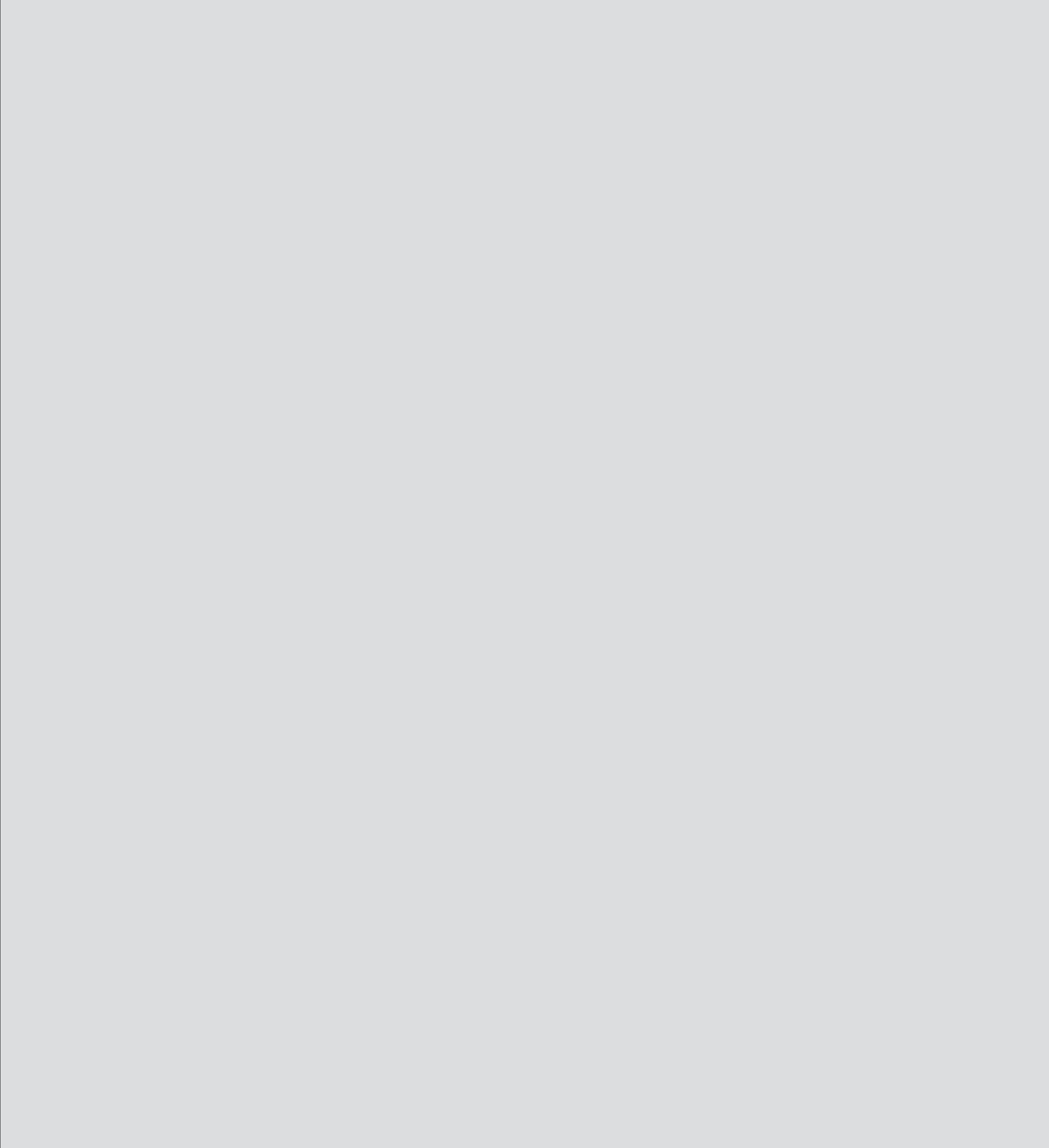
Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
Medical and Dental	283-7515
MEO	283-2739

MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
Legal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Wing Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
Finance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.





Military lawyer sentenced to 18 years in prison

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Capt. Barry Brown will serve an 18 year prison sentence for pleading guilty to attempted premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit premeditated murder and for violating a lawful general regulation by wrongful fraternization.

The maximum sentence Captain Brown could have received for the attempted premeditated murder was life imprisonment with eligibility for parole, said Capt. Shawn Tabor, 325th Fighter Wing judge advocate military justice chief. Attempted premeditated murder is the only attempted crime in which a person can be sentenced to more than 20 years.

“I’ve been doing military justice for 14 years and this is the longest I’ve ever seen

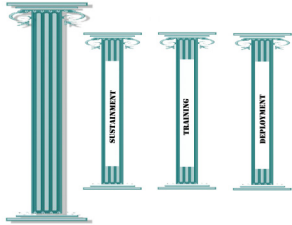
an Air Force lawyer sentenced,” said Lt. Col. Don Christensen, 325th Fighter Wing staff judge advocate

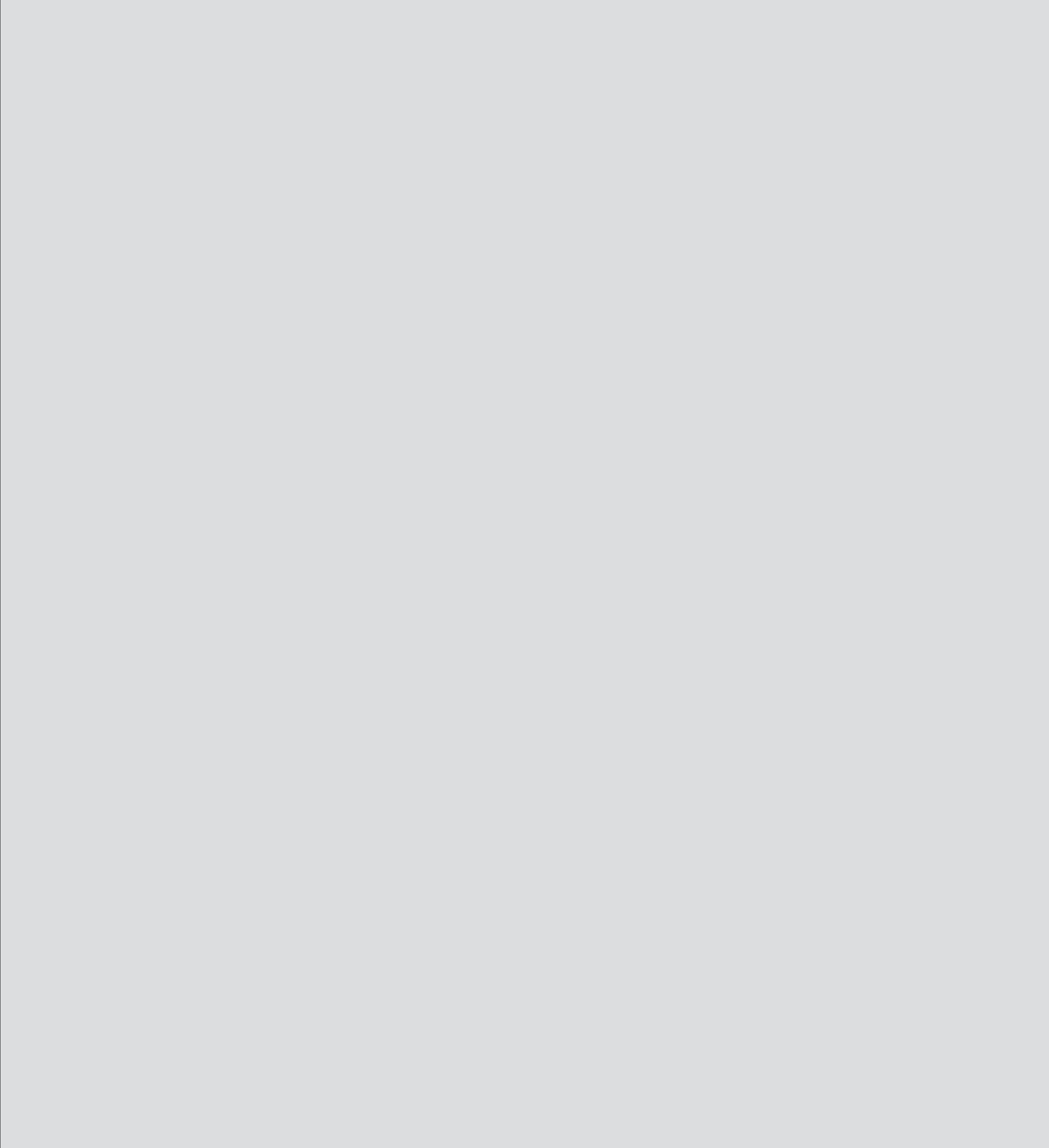
Captain Brown, a lawyer assigned to the 37th Training Wing, pleaded guilty to all charges before his sentencing hearing began Sept. 13. He also received a dismissal from the Air Force and will lose all military benefits.

Staff Sgt. Ramona Greiner, a paralegal assigned to his office, faced similar charges in a court martial Tuesday. According to the charges, their relationship led to hiring someone to kill Captain Brown’s wife.

Captain Brown will serve his sentence at the military disciplinary barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

FORCE PROTECTION





ALS/NCOA grads

(Editor's note: The following people graduated from Airman Leadership School and the NCO Academy recently and were not included in the original list of names.)

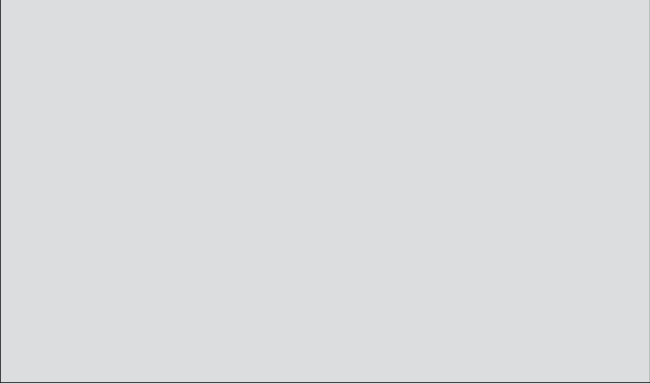
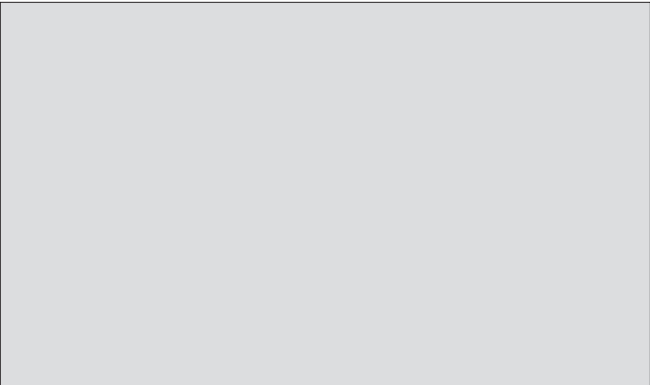
ALS
Staff Sgt. Michael Chauncey
Distinguished Graduate

NCO Academy
Tech. Sgt. Brett Stout
Distinguished Graduate
Academic Achievement Award



Sew what?
Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, left, 325th Fighter Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Rick Cargill, 325th Fighter Wing command chief, 'tack on' new master sergeant stripes for Master Sgt. Jerry Emerick Sept. 13. Sergeant Emerick received the stripes from the wing commander through the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program. He is the NCO in charge of personnel for the 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Congratulations, Sergeant Emerick.

Lisa Norman



Service STRIPES

Tech. Sgt. Scott Linza, 325th Services Squadron flight kitchen manager, helps prepare the box lunches for aircrews Tuesday. He was recently promoted by the wing commander here under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program, which was established to allow commanders the ability to promote Airmen with exceptional potential. Congratulations, Sergeant Linza.



2nd Lt. William Powell



● **FROM AEF PAGE 3**

bought by the 325th Contracting Squadron to support Hurricane Katrina recovery operations at Keesler AFB, Miss.

During the past several weeks, the members of the 325th CONS have been working around the clock to ensure that the needs of those reconstituting Keesler are met. In addition, the squadron has also supported Joint Task Force Katrina, which is being led by 1st Air Force here at Tyndall.

The requirements of Airmen at Keesler, and of others impacted by Hurricane Katrina, provide a clear reminder that we are a global, expeditionary Air Force. It's important to retain our contingency operation capability so that we can respond to a crisis halfway around the world, or a crisis 200 miles away.

The skills that we have sharpened to support operations

in Iraq and Afghanistan are now being utilized right here in the United States. RED HORSE teams had to clear roads and cut their way into Keesler. Services troops deployed from Tyndall to Keesler set up and operated field kitchens. Contracting officers are being deployed to purchase the goods and services required to get the base up and running.

The ability to successfully meet the challenges presented in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina is a testament to the training that each of you has received and the preparedness to which you have dedicated yourselves. By maintaining the ability to accomplish our mission and the flexibility to perform anywhere in the world, we provide the United States with any place, any time capability — whether it is half way around the world or in our own backyard.

Checkertail Salute

Airman 1st Class Kalem Miller



Lisa Norman

Airman Miller receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Airman Miller, 43rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit. He is the assistant dedicated crew chief for the wing commander's F/A-22 Raptor. Airman Miller quickly responded to a facility fire and helped tow a Raptor to safety, saving the Air Force more than \$160 million.

- Duty title:** Crew chief
- Time on station:** One year
- Time in service:** Two years
- Hometown:** Richard, La.
- Hobbies:** Outdoor recreation, sports, hunting and fishing
- Favorite movie:** "Con Air"
- Favorite book:** The Bible
- Favorite thing about Tyndall:** The location
- Goals:** Get my college degree and make chief
- Proudest moment in the military:** Graduating basic training

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter

Fall 2005 Edition



The Retiree Reader

Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida

“Serving military retirees and their families across the Florida Panhandle”

What's inside

RAO keeps you informed

Tyndall's Retiree Activities Office director outlines ways to seek information— Page 2

Calendar highlights upcoming events

Find out what's going on at Tyndall and when services and facilities may not be available — Page 2

Tricare for Life

Remember to enroll yourself and your family using the official guidelines — Page 3

SBP Open Enrollment

Starting Oct. 1 you may be eligible for this program — Page 3

Guest speaker for Appreciation Days

Meet Chief Master Sgt. Hair before he speaks — Page 4

Retiree Appreciation Day Schedule Nov. 4 at Tyndall AFB

7:30 a.m. - Breakfast at the dining hall
8 a.m. - Mission Brief at the dining hall
9 a.m. - Tours start, sign up with FSC
9 a.m. - Health and Information Fair at Enlisted Club
10:30 a.m. - Guest speakers at Enlisted Club
3 p.m. - End of Appreciation Day

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Commander welcomes retirees

BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

Greetings to all our local and regional retirees! I hope you will find this issue of the *Retiree Reader* filled with important information and articles that focus on you – the retiree.

Twice a year, the 325th Fighter Wing Retiree Activities Office goes to great lengths to put this supplement together to cover issues that are near and dear to those who have served in the Armed Forces and have chosen the Florida Panhandle to settle during

retirement. I applaud the RAO's commitment in keeping their fellow retirees informed and apprised of pertinent issues such as Tricare, veterans affairs and benefits and many others.

This year's Retiree Appreciation Day will take place Nov. 4 and will include various events and programs aimed at retirees and their beneficiaries. There will be a Tyndall mission briefing, health care screenings, stress management seminars and most notably a keynote speech from retired Chief Master

Sgt. Ken Hair, marketing director of the Air Force Enlisted Village (see page 4a).

Additionally, representatives from the Council on Aging and professionals from the regional Veterans Affairs Office will be on hand to assist retirees.

I also encourage those who are planning on coming to the day's events to contact the Tyndall Family Support Center to sign up for the mission tours that are scheduled for Nov. 4 at 9 a.m. These tours will take visitors on an up-close-and-personal encounter with sev-

eral of our operational missions, including a tour of a fighter squadron and a chance to tour the F-15 facilities.

From the bottom of my heart, I salute each and every one of our dedicated retirees who have paved the way for the current active duty force – through your efforts and hard work, you made the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps better for those who have followed. Thank you for all you do for us, and I hope to see you in November!

Tyndall hosts Appreciation Days

The annual Retiree Appreciation Days event sponsored by Tyndall each fall will take place Nov. 4 here.

Each year, Tyndall honors retirees from across the region to provide important updates on benefits and programs. Speakers' topics include Air Force Enlisted Village, Tricare and Veterans Affairs medical benefits.

This year's celebration will kick off with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast at the dining hall and a mission briefing by the Col. Brian D. Dickerson, 325th vice wing commander, at 8 a.m.

Mission tours will follow at 9 a.m. to give participants an up close look at Tyndall operations. Retirees have three tours to choose from: Fighter Squadron (including maintenance), Weapons Evaluation Group and Air Control Squadron where today's high-tech Air Battle Field Managers are trained. Advance sign-up is required by calling the Family Support Center no later than Oct. 31 at 283-4204.

The Health and Information Fair will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. The 325th Medical Group will offer immunizations for tetanus, pneumonia and flu, pending shipment arrival.

Additionally, health screenings will be available for

hypertension, cholesterol and body mass index. The pharmacy will provide medical management information and nutritional guidance will be available from the Health and Wellness Center. Representatives from the Council on Aging, Regional Veterans Office, Bay County Veterans Office, Social Security Administration, Legal Office, Army Air Force Exchange Services and others will be on-hand to assist retirees.

At 10:30 a.m. guest speakers will take the stage to provide valuable information. The key note speaker will be Chief Master Sgt. Ken Hair (Ret.), current marketing director of the Air Force Enlisted Village, who will discuss the role of retirees in today's Air Force.

Other speakers include Ken Blanchard, who will discuss Tricare and Debra Hagy, VA Program Specialist for compensation and pension program, who will discuss current issues regarding VA medical benefits.

All events will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., central time. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact 2nd Lt. Aria Jones at the FSC, (850) 283-4204 or e-mail, aria.jones@tyndall.af.mil.

(Courtesy of Family Support Center)

Director's Corner: Keeping you informed

COL. PHIL THORNTON
Retiree Activities Office director

I have been amazed at the number of articles, e-mail and news broadcasts that I have read, seen or heard that have stories of some proposed change to the benefits of our veterans, retirees or surviving spouses.

On the positive side, we've received some benefits that replace the old benefits. In most cases, however, the new benefits each come with a set of rules bigger than my old Webster dictionary. How do YOU keep informed? That is the \$64,000 question.

The Retiree Activities Office can help you answer that question. First, if you have a question about your benefits, we have the Tyndall RAO open Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. to noon central time in Building 662 on base. Also, we have a phone number, (850) 283-2737, with a 24/7 answering machine that we will respond to the caller on the next duty day. Just leave us a number to reach you, even if it is long distance. You can even send us a letter with your ques-

tions. Our mailing address is RAO, Suite 245, 445 Suwannee Rd., Tyndall AFB, Fla. 32403.

If you have access to a computer, we also have an e-mail address, rao@tyndall.af.mil, that you can use to ask a question and get a response back usually by the next business day.

Our Web site is www.tyndall.af.mil/325FW/RAO.htm developed by the 325th Communications Squadron that can be used 24/7 to answer most common questions with a little bit of scrolling, clicking and looking.

We will continue to publish the *Retiree Reader* twice annually to be mailed to the address on your retiree pay account. We think the *Retiree Reader* is only one piece of the "keeping you informed" quilt that must include a whole array of sources.

Finally, we have our annual Retiree Appreciation Day Nov. 4 here. It is loaded with information and a health fair for your benefit.

Keeping you informed is our primary mission as your RAO. We are here to



Col. Phil Thornton is the Retiree Activities Office director.

help you by getting you to the right expert.

If you would like to be involved in this undertaking, we can always use more volunteers answering the phones and assisting customers.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Grab, go; be prepared in emergencies

While the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina is still fresh in your mind, have you taken some time to access your own preparedness to evacuate the area?

Most retirees can remember the many "Mobility Exercises" they cussed and discussed during their military career. Getting yourself and your family ready to evacuate has the same importance.

If you don't have a "Grab & Go" bag for each family member, then Katrina should have given you the motivation to get some. For example, if you take any medications, then the bottles they come in are absolutely necessary if you evacuate. If you tell a pharmacist wherever you end up that you need two pink pills and one green one twice per day. You are probably not going to get you the assistance you need or earn yourself a smile at the pharmacy counter. Remember to pack a



week's worth of medications and special diet needs.

Other items to consider packing include a road map, next of kin information, change of clothes, wallet, money, credit cards, food, water, toiletries, portable radio, flashlight with batteries, first aid kit, plastic bags with ties, blankets and pillows. Remember another lesson learned from Hurricane Katrina - you don't know how long you will be gone and what will be left of your home when you return.

So, have a mobility exercise for old times sake and get together a "Grab and Go" bag that includes those things that are most necessary for your personal survival along with some items you deem "irreplaceable" such as important papers and family photos.

Oh, by the way, it's not a "Grab and Go" bag if you can't lift it by yourself.

(Courtesy of RAO)

Retiree news

Tyndall clinic closed for new retiree enrollment

Due to maximum Tricare Prime enrollment, the Tyndall Family Practice Clinic is currently closed for new retiree enrollment. Also, due to the staffing of only one provider, the Optometry Clinic is restricted to active duty personnel. All other clinical services are available on a space available basis. For questions regarding your health care benefit please call Clinic Tricare Operations at 283-7331.

Important DEERS Information

Updating Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System is very important. Your Tricare medical coverage is directly affected by the information contained in DEERS. It is imperative you keep the following information current at all time in order for your family's medical and dental coverage to remain uninterrupted: Marriage, divorce, children, address, Social Security number and ID card expiration. For more information call the Military Personnel Flight at 283-4980.

New Laboratory Hours

The 325th Medical Group clinical laboratory services hours have changed to 7:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, in order to better support the new active duty appointment system that replaced "sick call." Please address any questions to Maj. Rose Cantu at 283-7430.

Veterans Benefits Web site

There is a Web site that organizes more than 500 federal and state benefits programs, www.govbenefits.gov. Veterans can log on, answer a few anonymous questions and find out which benefits they might qualify for.

Retiree Reader editorial staff

RAO Director: Col. Phil Thornton

Design and layout: Chrissy Cuttita, 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Tyndall Retiree Activities Office Newsletter is published as an insert to the *Gulf Defender*. Articles appearing in this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the Department of the Air Force or Tyndall AFB.

The *Retiree Reader* is published by the Tyndall AFB Retiree Activities Office to inform Air Force retirees and family members of changes in legislation, defense policies and matters affecting their military rights, benefits and obligations. It also contains informa-

tion about Tyndall and the local retiree community. While we strive for an error-free, accurate newsletter, the Retiree Activities Office and its volunteer staff cannot guarantee the accuracy of information furnished by outside agencies.

For more information call the RAO at (850) 283-2737.



Greenbelts come to Tyndall to ‘launch’ careers

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It doesn’t matter if you call the 372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 4 students greenbelts or mission ready airmen, because they know that once they graduate they’ll all be called crew chiefs.

But for four weeks, they are trainees here, learning the daily tasks of maintaining the F-15 Eagle and, yes, wearing green belts.

“The wearing of the greenbelts started as a way to identify the students working on the flightline,” said Staff Sgt. Fred Frazier, a 372nd TRS/Det. 4 MRA instructor here. “If they’re working on the flightline with their BDU top off, they look just like another crew chief. We’re with the students most of the time, but if we’re away and an expeditor comes up and asks them to tow a jet, he’ll know they’re a student.”

Although they may not be able to tow a jet without an instructor yet, the MRA students have already learned a lot by the time they get here.

Their training starts at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. Crew chief students are assigned to train on F-15 Eagles, and after four months of training, the students are sent on temporary duty here to complete their schooling.

“These students are still in technical school, with military training leaders and dorm inspections,” said Sergeant Frazier. “A lot of people don’t realize that there is a tech school on base.”

Just like at any military technical school, the students here are put through intense training in a short period of time.

“At Sheppard, the students learn in-depth maintenance,” said Sergeant Frazier. “When

they get here, they learn the daily tasks of an Eagle crew chief: service, launch and recover, inspection, and forms.”

But, he added, the only way to learn these daily tasks and become proficient is by working on functional jets.

“Working on an operational jet makes it easier to understand everything we’re learning about,” said Airman Trevor Thompson, 372nd TRS/Det. 4 MRA student. “Instead of an instructor telling us what would be happening on a functional jet, we now get to see what they’re talking about.”

Not only is the maintenance more realistic, but this is also the first time the students are able to launch and recover the jets.

“We just got our technical orders for launch and recovery and paperwork that shows us each step,” said Airman Thompson. “First we’ll practice all the steps in the hangar, then we’ll go out to the flightline to get certified on launch and recovery by working with a live jet.”

Working on live jets is what the training at Tyndall is all about, and after 160 hours of this they finally get to graduate and move on to their operational bases.

“The graduations

here are on a smaller scale,” said Sergeant Frazier. “We have about 600 students yearly. There are just too many classes running at any one time for a large scale graduation ceremony.”

But the ceremony isn’t the important part for students like Airman Thompson, who graduates Sept. 30.

“I can’t wait to graduate,” he said. “It will definitely be cool to work on a jet. And I’ll get to look to my left and right and see crew chiefs doing the same thing I am – getting our jets going.”

“The coolest and most jaw-dropping thing is that I’m 19 years old, working on a \$40 million jet, with a pilot’s life in my hands – people are counting on me,” he continued. “I have friends the same age back home working in fast food. Not a lot of people get to do this.”

Training Spotlight

What will be the next step in your pilot training when you move to your new duty station?

“Tactical intercepts, which is intercepting another aircraft as an element.”



CAPT. JEREMY SEALS
95th Fighter Squadron
B-Course student

Seated and ready

Lt. Col. Timothy Manning, right, 16th Airborne Command Control Squadron commander, addresses the 325th Air Control Squadron’s Air Battle Manager Class 05016 at a graduation ceremony Sept. 14. ABM students attend 160 days of training here before heading off to their first operational base.



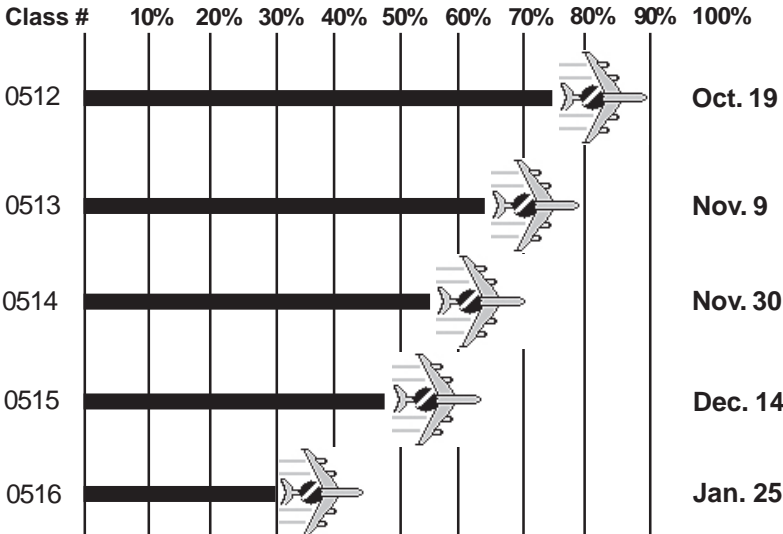
Isaac Gibson



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Staff Sgt. Buddy Ashcraft, left, 372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 4 mission ready airman instructor, goes over the components of the nose landing gear of an F-15 Eagle with Airman 1st Class John Bridgens, an MRA student.

Air Battle Manager student progress chart



“This could save our lives someday.”

Pilots learn to survive in the deep blue sea



Staff Sgt. Lance Clark, right, 95th Fighter Squadron life support specialist, helps Lt. Col. Carlos Fleming, 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron, with his life preserver while out at the water survival course recently. The students train off-shore near the Air Force Research Laboratory.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Air Force pilots are trained to dominate the skies, but if something goes wrong and they end up in the water, they must know how to survive.

And while initial water survival training is a rough, week-

long course at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla., the pilots must keep up-to-date with all the newest survival equipment and techniques. That's where the refresher courses come in.

Water survival training refresher courses take place between the months of May and October, said Tech. Sgt. Mark Cummins, 2nd Fighter Squadron NCO in charge of life support and acting 325th Fighter Wing life support superintendent. The classes are held approximately twice a month.

“The pilots need to have this training redone every 36 months,” said Sergeant Cummins. “The majority of our students are pilots or (senior ranking officers). Every once in a while we’ll help other bases, like if pararescuemen are here TDY.”

The training starts in a classroom for the academic portion. This part of the class touches on what the pilots need to do prior to ejecting, post-ejection and after they hit the water, said the sergeant. They also go

over what's in the survival kits that each pilot has.

“There are two rucksacks in the kit,” said Sergeant Cummins. “The first is the auxiliary bag. This contains a radio, a spare battery, flares that can signaled in both day-time and nighttime, sea dye, a sponge, a minimal first aid kit and a wool hood for cold nights.”

The main bag, he said, is much larger. It contains a plethora of items, including a three pint water collection bag, eight 4 ounce water packs, raft repair plugs, flashlight, matches, whistle, compass, multi-purpose tool, insect repellent and sunscreen.

The main pack also contains a very important book: The Survival, Evasion and Recovery pamphlet. The book covers everything from escape techniques to how to catch prey.

“It basically contains everything they need to escape and survive in combat,” said the sergeant.

Most of these items used to come in bright colors—orange, white, yellow. Now, said Sergeant Cummins, everything is being produced in subdued colors.

“These items are for combat use,” he said. “We’re trying to make everything the best we can so these guys will have a better chance at coming back alive.”

Learning what items are in these kits and how to use them is very important, said Capt. Louis Guerrini, 2nd Fighter Squadron A Flight commander.

“There are many things in these kits that you may have



Colonel Fleming splashes water out from the raft during training. The life raft, which automatically inflates, is equipped with a splash guard that can also be used to help get water out of the raft.



Above: Colonel Fleming peaks through the canopy at the canopy, the pilots are trained to find their way to the center underneath. Right: Senior Airman Chris Pena, 2nd Fighter Squadron, shows a student on how to properly strap onto the penetrator.



Lt. Col. David Holmgren, 601st Combat Plans Squadron, straightens his helmet before going underneath the canopy. Pushing backward under the canopy creates a pocket of air.

“You could have all kinds of nice things in these kits, but if you don’t know how to use them, they are useless to you.”

The survival kits are important, but most important is knowing how to get out of the aircraft alive, said Sergeant Cummins. That includes getting into the raft and having all emergency signaling devices ready. All this is covered out of the classroom and in the water.

For this portion of the class, the students and instructors head out to the Air Force Research Laboratory area of Tyndall. There the life support technicians have a dock set up with different stations to test and teach the pilots.

The stations include a zip line, which the pilots go down and hang above the water to demonstrate post-ejection procedures and water landing; a raft, so pilots can demonstrate how to get in the raft, both with and without injuries; and a parachute stretched over the water so pilots can demonstrate how to get out from under their canopy.

There is also the penetrator, which is a long, cylindrical device with collapsible seats that is dropped into the water by rescue helicopters. The pilots swim to this station and demonstrate how to properly wait for the device to ground out in the



Tech. Sgt. Mark Cummins, 2nd FS NCO in charge of life support and acting 325th Fighter Wing life support superintendent, demonstrates the use of sea dye in rescue efforts. Just a small amount of sea dye will turn the surface water bright green, which means that the pouch can be reused many times.

water before grabbing it, and then they demonstrate how to properly strap on.

To some this may sound like fun and games in the water, but this is a very serious course.

“The course is not meant to be fun,” said Captain Guerrini. “It is educational and could save our lives someday.”



If caught under the canopy, then use a main seam to work their way out from underneath. The water survival training course. If caught under the canopy, then use a main seam to work their way out from underneath. The water survival training course. If caught under the canopy, then use a main seam to work their way out from underneath. The water survival training course.



Above: Maj. Damian Olivieri, 1st Fighter Squadron, rinses the salt water from his flight suit after completing the water survival course. Left: Colonel Fleming prepares to swim underneath a canopy to demonstrate the ability to quickly find his way out from beneath it.

Briefs

RAO volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office is seeking volunteers to assist with the various tasks associated with running the office. The RAO is an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance and information to Tyndall's retiree community on retiree-related issues. Those interested in volunteering should contact the office by e-mail at tyndall.RAO@tyndall.af.mil at 283-2737.

CSAF official photo

Those needing the official photo of Gen. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, can download it from www.af.mil/media/bio/hi_res/moseley_tm1.jpg.

Family Support Center

The FSC has computers available for use to check personal e-mail and information research. They also have the FSC Loan Closet, with dish packs, air mattresses and baby materials available for checkout. For more information on this or on Tyndall and the Panama City area, call 283-4204 or visit the FSC in Bldg. 745.

ERAU registration

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Winter 2005 Term Registration will be from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 11-14 and Oct. 17 in Bldg. 1230, Room 49. Class dates are Oct. 18 Dec. 19. For more information, call 283-4557.

Troy University

Troy University will begin Web registration for Term II Monday continuing through Oct. 9. For more information, call 283-4449.

CCCC placement test

There will be a placement test at the Tyndall Center at 1 p.m. Oct. 5. For more information, call 283-4332.

Tricare Hurricane Katrina Web page

The Tricare Management Activity's Hurricane Katrina Web page is now live. The Web address is www.tricare.osd.mil/HurricaneKatrina/index.cfm. For health care inquiries, call the Tricare contractor toll-free at (800) 444-5445 or the clinic Tricare operations office at 283-7331.

Blood drive

The Armed Services Blood Program



Isaac Gibson

Thank you

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, left, thanks the members of the Family Support Center for all the work they accomplished helping Hurricane Katrina evacuees. The Family Support Center is open 6 a.m. to midnight everyday.

Drive will be held from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday at Community Center. All potential donors must bring photo identification. Those who do not have military ID cards must bring documentation of their Social Security Number. All blood collected by the stays in the military community to support the peacetime and contingency operations of the Military Health System.

AF housing survey

Housing residents have a second opportunity to participate in the Air Force Housing Survey. The surveys are available at the Base Housing Office, Bldg. 747. All surveys must be picked up by Sept. 30 and mailed by Oct. 7. For more information, call 283-8141.

Clinic laboratory hours change

The 325th Medical Group clinical laboratory services hours have changed to 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call Maj. Rose Cantu at 283-7430.

Commissary news

Many Commissary customers have been buying various items for the relief efforts. Unfortunately, many people are buying everything on the shelves. The Commissary asks its patrons to place a special order for their items if they are going to buy in bulk to alleviate the problem of running out of items until the next delivery arrives.

Tricare briefing

A Tricare benefit briefing will be held

from 6-8 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Gulf Beach Baptist Church located on Hutchison Boulevard in Panama City Beach. Health care information will be provided for all categories of Tricare beneficiaries. For more information, call the 325th Medical Group's Tricare Operations office at 283-7331.

Tricare Online

The DOD's Internet portal to Tricare and health care information, Tricare Online, is available to all Tricare beneficiaries. Registered users can book appointments online. For more information, log on to www.tricareonline.com.

Airman's Attic

Family Services and the Airman's Attic are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday in Bldg. 747. Call the Family Services office at 283-4913 or the Family Support Center at 283-4204 for more information.

Thrift Shop hours

All donated clothing will be half price starting Wednesday through Oct. 1. Fall and winter clothing may be brought in for consignment starting Oct. 5. Halloween items are all ready arriving in the store.

Normal operating hours are Wednesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with consignments on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 743 on Suwannee Drive across from the Base Post Office. For more information, call 286-5888.

**Catholic services**

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, Chapel Two
Reconciliation, before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

Protestant services

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

Muslim services

Dhuhr Prayer, Monday-Thursday, Spiritual Maintenance building near the flightline
Jumauh services, 12:30 p.m. the second and fourth Friday of each month, Spiritual Maintenance building near flightline

Mark your calendar!

Tyndall AFB dates of interest

September

30 - Pharmacy closed

October

1 - Women's Health Forum, 9 a.m. at Enlisted Club

5 - Clinic and Pharmacy closes at noon

10 - Columbus Day (offices closed)

12 - Retiree Committee Meeting, 1 p.m. at wing conference room, Bldg. 662

14 - Pharmacy closed, new prescription drop box available in the main lobby

15 - Hispanic Heritage Dinner, Officers' Club

27 - Daedalians Meeting & Dinner, 6:30 p.m. at Officers' Club

November

2 - Clinic and Pharmacy closes at noon

4-6 - Retiree Appreciation Days, Base Exchange, Commissary and 325th Services

4 - Retiree Health & Information Fair

11 - Veterans Day (offices closed)

24 - 25 Thanksgiving Holiday (offices closed)

December

2 - USAF Tops in Blue, Marina Civic Center, Panama City

2 - Daedalians Holiday Party, 5:30 p.m. at Officers Club

7 - Clinic and Pharmacy Closes at noon

23 - AETC Family Day (offices closed)

25 - 26 Christmas, Federal Holiday (offices closed)

30 - AETC Family day (offices closed)

January

1 - 2 New Years, Federal Holiday (offices closed)

4 - Clinic and Pharmacy Closes at noon

11 - Retiree Committee Meeting, 1 p.m. at wing conference room, Bldg. 662

16 - Martin Luther King Day, Federal Holiday (offices closed)

February

1 - Clinic & Pharmacy closes at noon

20 - Presidents Day, Federal Holiday (offices closed)

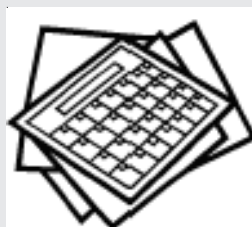
March

1 - Clinic & Pharmacy Closes at noon

April

5 - Clinic & Pharmacy Closes at noon

12 - Retiree Committee Meeting, 1 p.m. at wing conference room, Bldg. 662



SBP Open Enrollment begins Oct.

The Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2005, approved a one-year Survivor Benefit Plan open enrollment period.

The open enrollment begins on Oct. 1, 2005 and ends Sept. 30, 2006, and will allow eligible members to enroll in the SBP. An eligible member is a retiree who, on Sept. 30, 2005 was already retired, and was not participating to the fullest possible extent in the SBP although eligible to do so at an earlier date. Retirees, who terminated their coverage under the Disenrollment Provision authorized by Public Law 105-85, dated Nov. 18, 1997, may not enroll during this open enrollment. This open enrollment period will not allow a retiree to terminate their existing coverage.

To make a valid open enrollment election, a member must complete and submit a DD Form 2656-9, *Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Reserve Component Survi-*

vor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) Open Enrollment Election, in accordance with the instructions on the form. The form is available electronically at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2656-9.pdf>. Open enrollment elections require a lump sum buy-in premium as well as future monthly premiums. The lump sum equates to all back premiums, plus interest, from the date of original eligibility to make an election plus any amount needed to protect the Military Retirement Fund.

The Afterburner, News for USAF Retired Personnel, will contain the form and instructions. SBP counselors and Retiree Activities Offices at local military installations are not equipped or staffed to provide guidance. For further information, visit AFPC Randolph SBP Web site at: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/sbp/openenroll.htm.

(Courtesy of the 325th Mission Support Group)

Retiree health care in a nutshell

What happens if you, the veteran, reach the age of 65 this July and get TRICARE for Life but your spouse will not be 65 years old until November? Your wife will not become entitled to TLF until she becomes entitled to Medicare at age 65. TLF entitlement is established by the law that created the program in 2001.

To be entitled to TCL, each person must meet all of the following: (1) legally eligible otherwise for TRICARE; (2) at least 65 years old; (3) entitled for Medicare; (4) enrolled in both Part A & B of Medicare; (5) and properly registered on the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database.

A beneficiary does not have to be entitled to Social Security payments to get Medicare at age 65. Medicare entitlement begins on the first day of the month of the person's 65th birthday, even if his/her Social Security payment entitlement does not start until later. Certain people become entitled to Medicare before the age of 65 due to a disability or kidney disease. If they are enrolled in Part B of Medicare their claims are processed in exactly the same way as those of TLF beneficiaries. However, they are not TLF beneficiaries. That is because the condition creating

Medicare entitlement may not be permanent.

TRICARE provides a world-class pharmacy benefit to all eligible Uniformed Services members, including TLF beneficiaries entitled to Medicare Part A & B based on their age, disability and/or end-stage renal disease. An eligible beneficiary may fill prescription medications at military treatment facility pharmacies through the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy.



macy, at TRICARE retail network pharmacies and at non-network pharmacies. To have a prescription filled, beneficiaries need a written prescription and a valid Uniformed Services identification card. TFL beneficiaries who turned the age of 65 on April 1, 2001, or later, must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to use the pharmacy program. TFL beneficiaries who turned 65 before April 1, 2001, are not required to be en-

rolled in Medicare part B but are required to be enrolled in Part B for all other benefits available under TLF.

Prescriptions may be filled (up to a 90-day supply for most medications) at a base pharmacy at no cost to the beneficiary, if the medication is on the base formulary. Beneficiaries should contact their local base to find out what is on the formulary and for specific details about filling and refilling prescriptions at the base pharmacy. With no co-payment, the base pharmacy is the best value to the beneficiary.

TMOP is administered by Express Scripts Inc. (ESI) and is available for prescriptions that beneficiaries take on a regular basis. For the beneficiary, it is a more cost-effective way to receive prescriptions compared to using retail pharmacies. Beneficiaries may receive up to a 90-day supply for most medications. Refills may be requested by mail, phone or online. If you have prescription drug coverage from another health insurance plan you may not use TMOP unless the medication is not covered under the other plan.

(Compiled from various sources by Tyndall RAO)

AF Enlisted Village at Appreciation Day

Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth E. Hair (Ret), director of marketing, development and communications for the Air Force Enlisted Village, Shalimar, Fla., will be the keynote speaker at this year's Retiree Appreciation Day Nov 4.

He is responsible for marketing, funding

development, communications and public relations. Chief Hair keeps the Air Force family informed on the mission, goals and objectives of the Village.

The chief is an extremely active Air Force Retiree and will be speaking on the role of retirees in today's Air Force.

(Courtesy of Family Support Center)

Other speech topics for Appreciation Day

"VA Medical Benefits Update"

Ms. Debra Hagy, VA Program Specialist for Compensation and Pension Program

"Tricare - What you need to know"

James Blanchard, 325th Medical Support Squadron
Tricare Specialist

Around the Air Force: News and topics of interest

BRAC 2005: DOD Uses Process to Revamp Medical System

Defense officials have used the base realignment and closure process to transform the way military medicine operates.

Medical facilities will become more joint, they will consolidate where patients reside and they will become state-of-the-art. "We want to rival Johns Hopkins or the Mayo Clinics," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant defense secretary for health affairs.

The major recommendation would establish the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on the grounds of the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. It also will create a brand-new 165-bed community hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va. Army, Navy and Air Force medical personnel will staff both facilities.

Changes would take place in San Antonio also. The two big medical platforms there are Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston and the 59th Medical Wing's Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base. Plans call for medical care to center at Brooke. It will become the San Antonio Regional Medical Center, and will be a jointly staffed, 425-bed center. At Lackland, BRAC recommends building a world-class outpatient and ambulatory surgery center. The trauma

center at Lackland will close, and Brooke will expand to handle the need.

See the complete story on www.defenselink.mil/news/May2005/20050513_1063.html

Veterans Disability Commission begins work

WASHINGTON - The Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission, established by Congress to review benefits going to disabled veterans and the survivors of deceased veterans, held its first meetings May 9 and 10 in Washington, D.C. The 13-member panel, chaired by retired Army Lt. Gen. James Terry Scott, is scheduled to issue its final report to Congress in 15 months.

In setting up the commission, Congress instructed it to examine three specific issues: the "appropriateness" of compensation and other benefits for disabled veterans and for the survivors of veterans who died from causes related to military service; the appropriateness of the level of such benefits; and the appropriate standard for determining whether a disability or death of a veteran should be compensated.

The commission will take testimony at public meetings, oversee studies of the United States' dis-

ability compensation systems, and receive input from other organizations, including the Institute of Medicine and the Department of Defense.

People interested in presenting oral or written testimony to the commission should contact the panel's acting executive director, Ray Wilburn, at (202) 273-7509, or e-mail at vetscommission@va.gov. (Courtesy Air Force Retiree News Release No. 05-04-05)

Seek qualified charities for Katrina help

Citizens seeking to make donations to help Hurricane Katrina victims should seek out qualified charities. The Federal Emergency Management Administration has urged citizens to make cash donations to volunteer agencies with whom it is working.

People who have a specific charity in mind can make sure it is a qualified charity by searching an IRS-approved list available on the IRS Web site. IRS.gov has an online search feature that allows people to find qualified charities; however, the IRS does not endorse any charity. The government's official Web portal, FirstGov.gov, also contains disaster-relief information.

(Courtesy of AF Retiree News Release No.09-05-05)

Retiree news e-mail service

This service is to inform members of the Air Force retiree community, including family members, about legislation, policies and other matters affecting their rights, benefits and obligations.

To subscribe to the e-mail service, send an e-mail with "Subscribe to AF Retire" in the subject line to list.manager@listserver.afpc.randolph.af.mil and hit send.

Soon you'll begin receiving updated retiree-related information via e-mail.

RETENTION OF RETIREE NEWSLETTERS:
*Recipients are encouraged to retain copies of our newsletter and the **Gulf Defender** as they may contain reference information, address change procedures and telephone numbers which may be needed at a later date.*

Telephone numbers and Web sites of interest

Tricare: Gulf South(4) and Southeast(#) Regions (800) 444-5445, www.tricare.osd.mil

Tricare for Life: (888) 363-5433 www.tricare.osd.mil/tfl

Tricare Mail Order Pharmacy: (866) 363-8667, www.tricare.osd.mil/tmop

Tricare Senior Help Line: (866) 700-6193

Express Scripts: (866) 363-8779, www.express-scripts.com

DEERS eligibility: (800) 538-9552, www.tricare.osd.mil/deers

Retiree dental plan: (888) 838-8737, www.ddpdelta.org

Long-term care insurance: (800) 582-3337, www.ltcfeds.com

Family Support Center: (850) 283-4204

MPF customer service: (850) 283-2276

Pass and Registration: (850) 283-4191

Finance customer service: (850) 283-4117

Base Exchange: (850) 286-5804

Commissary: (850) 283-4825

Clinic: (850) 283-2778, (800) 824-3454

Prescriptions Refills: (850) 283-7177, (800) 356-5273

Mission Support Squadron Web site: www.325thservices.com

Tyndall RAO: (850) 283-2737, www.tyndall.af.mil/325FW/RAO.htm



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

What a rush

Kim Leonarczyk, playing for the 325th Medical Group team, breaks out into a run after receiving a pass from quarterback Scott Boyle in a game versus the 601st Expeditionary Air Operations Group Wednesday night. The 601st EAOG took advantage of a couple of 325th MDG turnovers to win the game 29-28.

Pig-Prog sees some good guesses, bad picks

PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR
From the state that's evergreen

Well, the NFL's second weekend saw everything slightly evening out. The first couple of weeks are a bit crazy anyway (remember New England coming back from 0-2?), but we are starting to see the strengths and weaknesses that will help prognosticators pick the winner for Super Bowl XL.

And everyone here seems to be picking better, with the exception of a few unnamed ... cough cough ... RED HORSE ... cough ... squadrons. But don't worry. Even I, the quasi-clairvoyant Pig-Prog, am at a measly 14 total points. I mean how the heck did New England lose to Carolina?

And who's in first? Why it's the First Sergeants! Paul Cornell, the 325th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant, picked for the shirts this week and got an amazing 12 lucky guesses – I mean great picks.

Well, he might be good, but Week 3 should have some interesting match-ups to keep everyone on their toes.

Just look at the Cincinnati at Chicago game. While the Bengals haven't had a great season since 1990, they are looking good this year with a 2-0 start. Chicago, while 1-1, has one of the best defenses in the NFC North, and they're fighting against the fact that everyone thinks they're going to lose. This has the potential to be a very good game.

When it comes to the Eagles playing the Raiders, William Bracken from the 325th Operations Group sees some feathers flying.

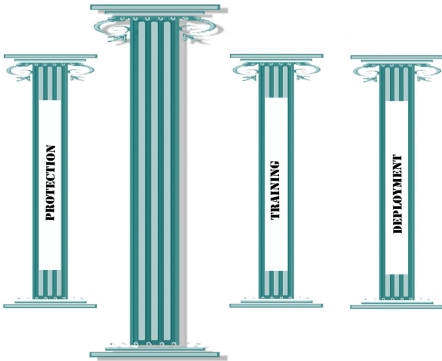
"Philadelphia was a Super Bowl contender last year, yet they've been playing like it's pre-season," he said. "Oakland is just good enough to barely beat them."

Now, let's get out there and watch some football!

Prognosticator scoreboard

Team	Week 2	Total
PIG-PROG	8	14
First Sgts.	12	21
325th SVS	8	18
53rd WEG	9	18
325th MOS	8	17
325th OSS	8	17
325th ACS	7	16
325th MDOS	7	16
325th MSS	7	16
2nd FS	8	16
325th AMXS	8	16
325th CPTS	9	16
325th CONS	8	15
325th CS	8	15
323rd MXS	8	15
325th SFS	4	13
823rd RHS	4	12
NCOA	8	12
325th CES	7	7
1st FS	0	6
325th OG	5	5
AFRL	0	5

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Tyndall Sports Day schedule

Event	Time	Location
10K	7 a.m.	Fitness Center
Golf	8 a.m.	Pelican Point
Bowling	8:30 a.m.	Raptor Lanes
50/100-yard dash	8:30 a.m.	Base track
One-pitch softball	9 a.m.	Federal Field
Three-on-three basketball	9 a.m.	Fitness Center
3-point shootout	10 a.m.	Fitness Center
50-meter swim	10 a.m.	Base pool
100-meter swim	11 a.m.	Base pool
Keg toss	11 a.m.	E'Club v-ball court
Tug-of-war	Noon	E'Club v-ball court
MOPP 3 relay	12:30 p.m.	Heritage Field
Humvee pull	1 p.m.	Heritage Field
Checkertail Challenge	1 p.m.	Base track
Chiefs vs. Eagles volleyball	2 p.m.	E'Club v-ball court
Readiness Weakest Link	3 p.m.	E'Club
Awards presentation	4 p.m.	E'Club

Pig-Prog vs. 325th CPTS

Atlanta @ Buffalo	Atlanta
Carolina @ Miami	Carolina
Cincinnati @ Chicago	Chicago
Cleveland @ Indianapolis	Indianapolis
Jacksonville @ N.Y. Jets	Jacksonville
New Orleans @ Minnesota	Minnesota
Oakland @ Philadelphia	Oakland
Tampa Bay @ Green Bay	Tampa Bay
Tennessee @ St. Louis	Tennessee
Arizona @ Seattle	Seattle
Dallas @ San Francisco	Dallas
New England @ Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
N.Y. Giants @ San Diego	San Diego
Kansas City @ Denver - 55	49 points

The Pig-Prog beat 325th MDOS in the Week 2 challenge 8-7. Better luck next time!

Memorial monument dedication ceremony

The Bay County Historical Society will dedicate a memorial monument in honor of Air Force 2nd Lt. Edwin Leroy Gorbet at noon Monday at the Panama City Garden Club, 810 Garden Club Dr. Lieutenant Gorbet sacrificed his life in a plane crash Sept. 28, 1953, as he avoided Jinks Junior High School and saved the lives of many students, teachers and citizens. He was stationed at Tyndall in the F-86D Sabre jet training program. The ceremony will last approximately 30 minutes.

For more information, call Rebecca Saunders at 872-7500.

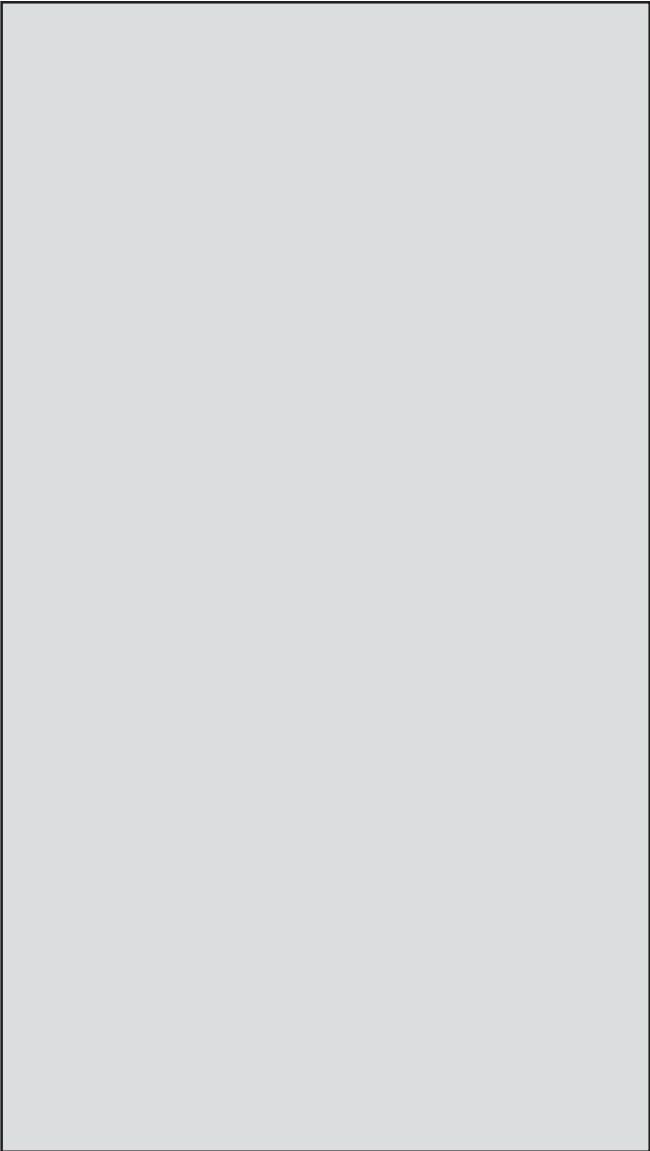
AAFES waives interest for Katrina victims

DALLAS – The Army & Air Force Exchange Service announced it is waiving interest and suspending monthly payment requirements to Exchange Credit Program cardholders displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

“According to our records, there are approximately 15,000 accounts impacted in undeliverable zip codes,” said Grant Morris, AAFES’ treasurer. “No interest will be charged, and no payments will be due for an undetermined period of time. The interest rate and payment exclusion will also apply to new purchases for an extended time period.”

AAFES determined eligibility by matching accounts to the U.S. Postal Service’s listing of impacted zip codes. Affected areas in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi include: 365XX-366XX, Mobile, Ala.; 369XX-393XX, Meridan, Miss.; 394XX, Hattiesburg, Miss.; 395XX, Gulfport, Miss.; 396XX, McComb, Miss.; 700XX-701XX, New Orleans, La.; 703XX, Houma, La.; and 704XX, Mandeville, La.

All Exchange Credit Program cardholders displaced by Hurricane Katrina can contact customer service at the nearest exchange by calling toll free at (877) 991-7827. They can also update their contact information at www.aafes.com.



Deployed air traffic controllers perform dual mission, put fighters on target

TECH. SGT. MELISSA PHILLIPS
407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

ALIBASE, Iraq—Air traffic controllers here are breaking new ground — or one might say space — in the air traffic control world.

Not only do controllers here balance their normal workload of ensuring the safety of airplane traffic in the area, they also direct fighter aircraft to engage the enemy for the southern third of Iraq. It's a first for the controllers.

"Never before have we mixed civil airspace with combat airspace in wartime," said Capt. James Hudnell, 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron Airfield Operations flight commander, who is one of a handful of controllers throughout Southwest Asia laying preparations to return Iraqi airspace control duties back to Iraqis.

Until that time, Captain Hudnell and his crew control all air traffic from the Kuwait border to South of Balad Air Base in Northern Iraq.

Here, area control center controllers have the unique opportunity to direct fighters to engage the enemy. It's normally a job done by air battle managers and air control squadron personnel elsewhere in theater.

Although both jobs are similar, a fundamental difference remains — air traffic controllers were never trained

to direct aircraft to targets during battle. Even their main source of information, a circular scope which is a crystal ball of sorts to help controllers keep track of and predict where aircraft will be flying in relation to each other, looks different.

Diagonal and horizontal lines converge and grid the screen into more than 100 squares called "kill boxes."

Whenever suspicious activity pops up in a certain area under their domain, the controllers activate a kill box and direct fighter aircraft to the box.

During that time, it's imperative that no other airplanes stray into the kill box until the target is taken out. Often, that takes some creative maneuvering on the controller's part.

"Sometimes we have to tell aircraft to spin around each other," said Captain Hudnell, who says he's not happy unless they're lots of airplanes in the sky to control.

The controllers move the million-dollar aircraft around each other like giant pawns on a board game. Only instead of playing with plastic game pieces, each blip on the computer screen represents several to hundreds of lives for which controllers shoulder the responsibility for the entire time the plane flies in their airspace.

"Air traffic control is kind of like playing a chess game," said Captain Hudnell. "You have to know when to move your pieces around."

It's a zero-error work environment and that pressure has earned air traffic control the reputation of one of the most stressful career fields in the world.

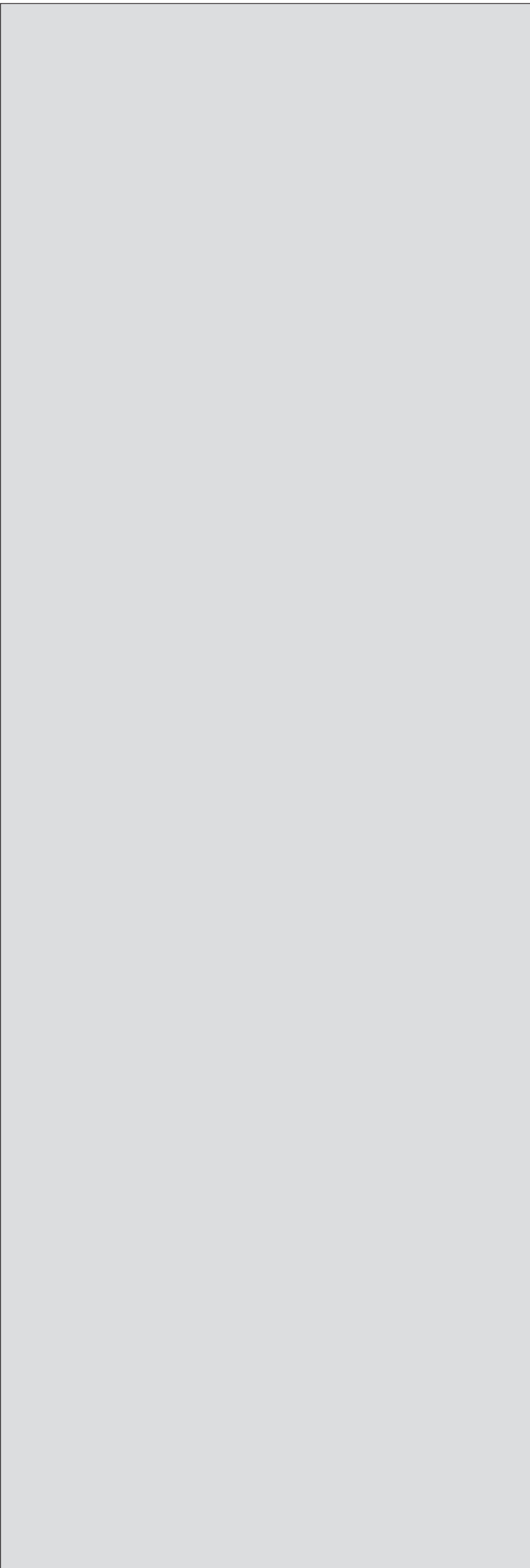
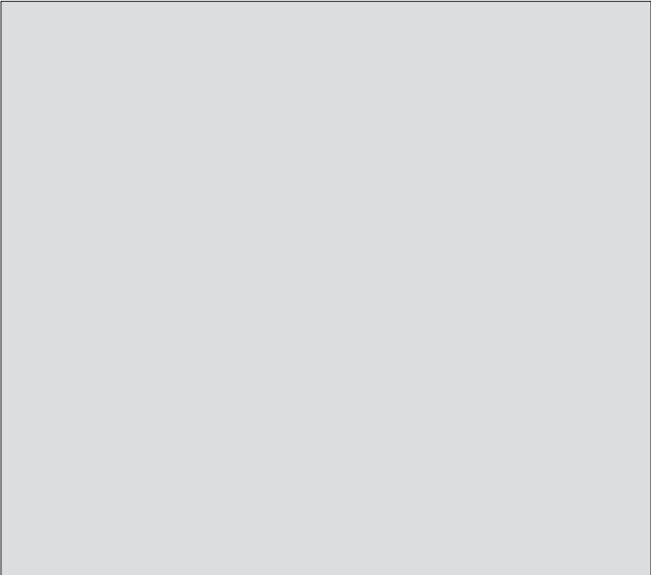
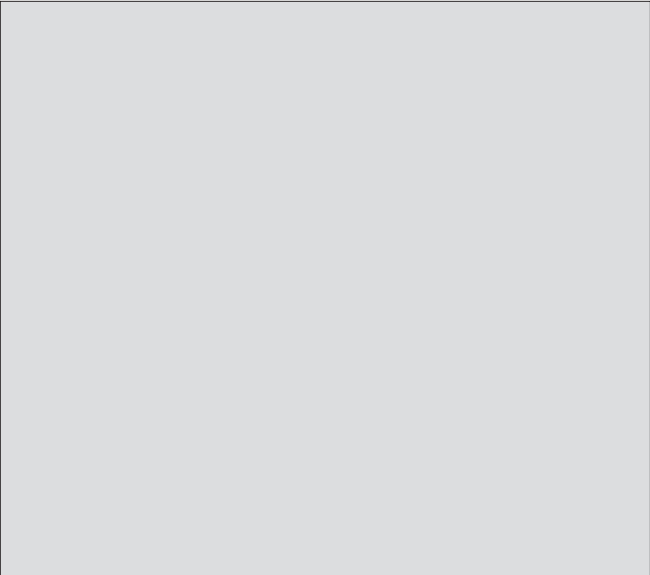
However, those who make the cut say the rewards override the stress.

"You can actually see your impact on the mission," said Staff Sgt. John Gladney, 407th EOSS air traffic tower watch supervisor, who supervises several controllers and directs each plane's movement on the flightline and in the air.

"(As a controller), you're clearing airplanes, minimizing delays and helping to move cargo to support the troops on the ground," said Sergeant Gladney, who is deployed from the 325th Operations Support Squadron. "I wouldn't want to do any other job; it makes me proud to be doing this."



Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips
Staff Sgt. John Gladney, 325th Operations Support Squadron, surveys the flightline at Ali Base, Iraq.





Funshine NEWS



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Tyndall Youth Center
Ninth Annual
Fall Festival
283-4366

Oct. 21
6 p.m.
Games, food &
lots of
fun for the
entire family!

TYNDALL SERVICES YP

For NAF Employment
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www.aetcsv.us

Free Movie Nites

Tonight at the Pizza Pub 8 p.m.
House of Wax
(Rated PG-13)
Prey. Slay. Display. Car troubles lead a group of college students to wander into a museum overseen by a sadistic curator.

Thursday at the E'Club 6 p.m.
Bad News Bears
(Rated PG-13)
Baseball has rules. Meet the exceptions. A grizzled little league coach tries to turn his team of misfits into champs.

Tyndall's
Sixth Annual Car, Truck, and Motorcycles Show

Oct. 1, 2005
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
In the Bayview Housing Area.

For details call: 283-4511 Open to the public.

"Boo"-Lagio
Halloween Costume Party with Monster Buffet, Karaoke & Texas Hold 'Em Tournament at the E'club All ranks.

Oct. 28
Starts at 5 p.m.
Free for members
\$5 for non-members

Costume Contest 9 p.m. for Members

BLOCK PARTY
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT THE PIZZA PUB
6 - 10 p.m.

\$1 BEVERAGES
20¢ WINGS
KARAOKE

TYNDALL SERVICES

Oktoberfest
Bay View Housing
(by new Visitor's Center)

Oct. 1, 2005
10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Free Admission
Open to the public
call 283-2495 or www.325thservices.com for more info.

Activities:
Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show
Registration : 8-11 a.m.
\$25 per entry
Arts and Crafts Faire
Beer & Wine Fest Tent
Bratwursts, hot dogs & more

Smoke House by Fire Dept.
K9 Dog Demo
Live Entertainment
Children's Games
& Activities
And More!

TYNDALL SERVICES

Attention Team Tyndall: Place a *free* classified ad in the Gulf Defender

Military classified ads are placed in the Gulf Defender on a space available basis. Ads must be for a one-time sale of personal goods and should include a complete description, 30 words or less, of item being sold. Forms must be turned in by 2 p.m. Thursday for publication in the following Friday's Gulf Defender. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 445 Suwannee Rd. Ste. 129 Tyndall AFB, FL 32403, or faxed to (850) 283-3225.

Rank/Name _____
Unit/Office Symbol _____
Duty Phone _____
Home Phone _____

Item description (One ad per form)
(30 words or less)

We value your opinion!

Take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on how we can make the Gulf Defender better:

Did the front page grab your attention? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you feel there is a good mix of local, command and Air Force-level news? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do the photos encourage you to read accompanied articles? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is the Gulf Defender easy to read and follow? Yes ☐ No ☐

What did you find most interesting in this week's paper? _____

If you could change one thing in the paper, what would it be? _____

Comments: _____



Airman 1st Sarah McDowell

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, right, 325th Fighter Wing commander, hands a helmet bag to Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th FW vice commander, while working as a crew chief for a day. General Egginton launched the vice commander during his shift.

Working with a ‘star’: Wing commander becomes crew chief

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SARAH McDOWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It was a common sight: a crew chief quickly moving underneath the jet right before launch, checking hydraulic fluid levels, flight controls and exterior lights. But this time something was uncommon – the crew chief was a general.

The 325th Fighter Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, took a few hours out of his day Sept. 14 to get trained by 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chiefs on what maintainers do on a typical day.

“It was fun, but it is a lot noisier, hotter and difficult to launch the jets than to fly them,” the general said. “I had to make sure I listened closely to Josh.”

Airman 1st Class Josh Ruberg, one of the crew chiefs with the 1st AMU who worked with General Egginton, trained the general on pre-flighting and launching the jet. During the pre-flight,

they checked the landing gear and secured the panels, checked for foreign-object debris and ensured the cockpit was secure.

“The overall experience training the general was awesome,” said Airman Ruberg. “The general is real easy to talk to and he had some good questions.”

The pilot in the sortie they launched was Col. Brian Dickerson, the 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

“That was pure coincidence,” said General Egginton. “I had to strap him in and make sure he was secure.”

Earlier that day, the general also learned how to change a left wing tire on the jet.

“It was a great experience to work with the maintainers,” General Egginton said. “They make the mission happen – every day, all day.”

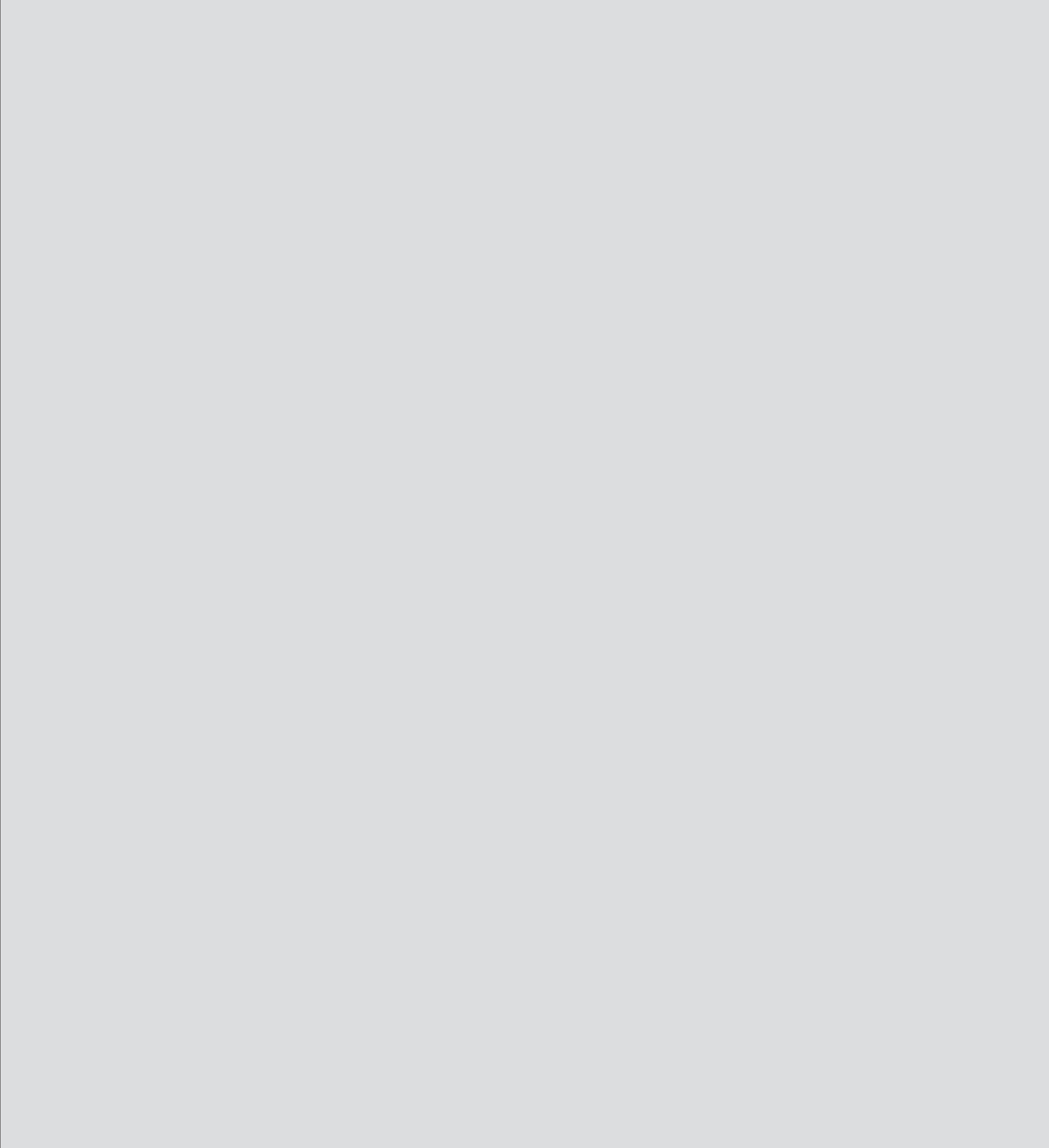
“He got an ‘A’ for the day,” said Airman Ruberg. “He did a good job.”

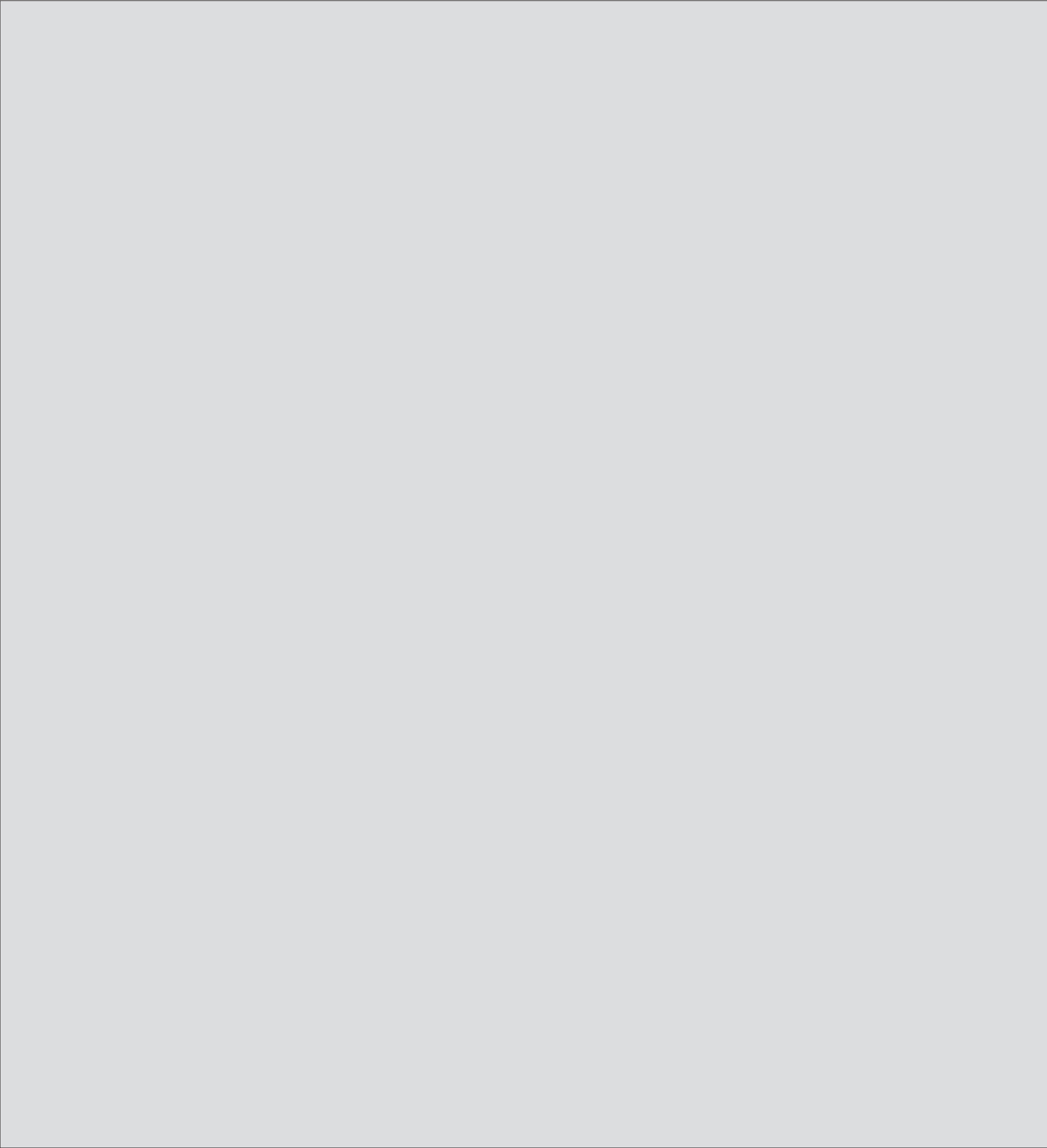


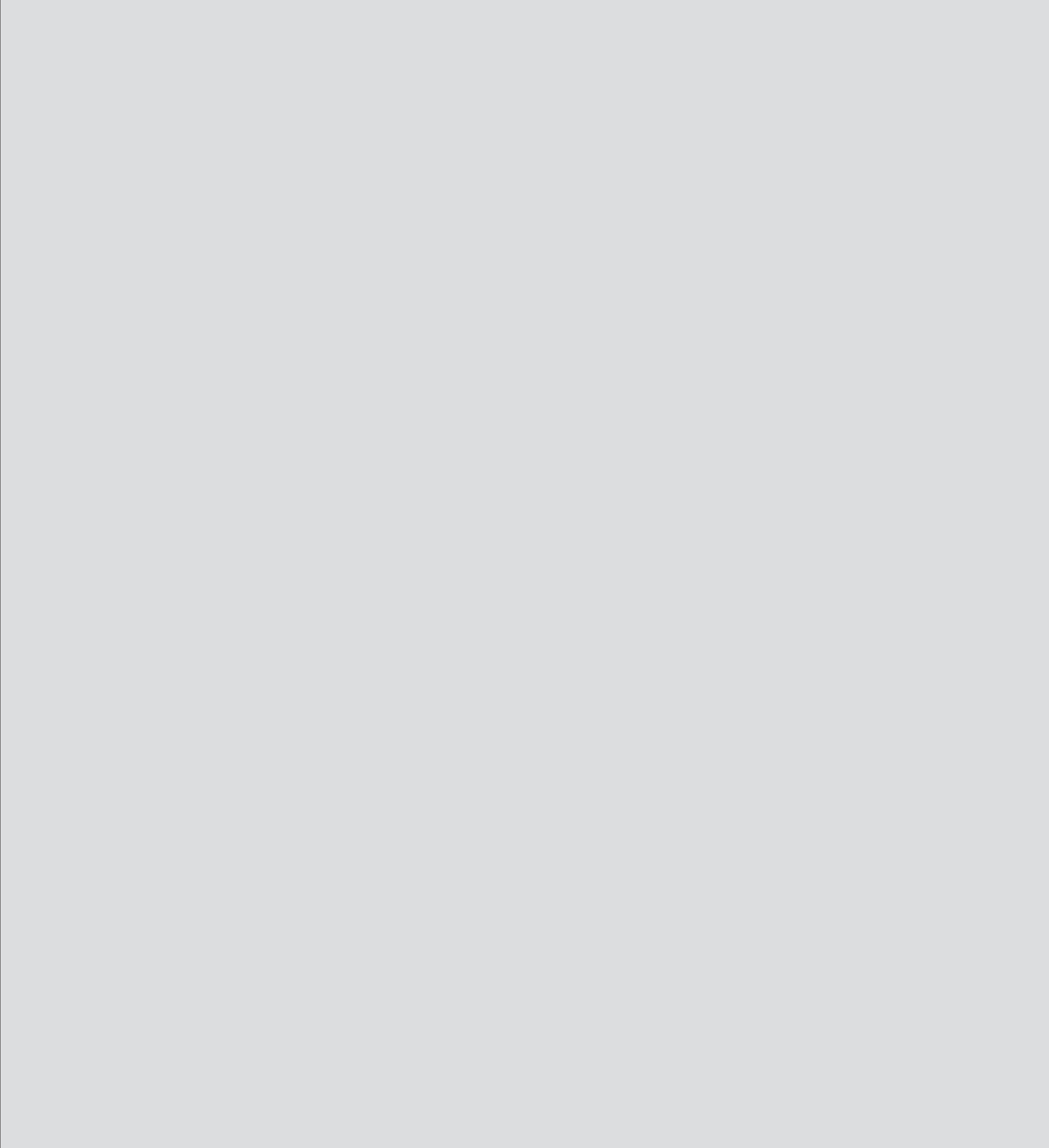
This week in Tyndall history ...

Sept. 26, 2003 – To start a new era for the 325th Fighter Wing and Tyndall, Lt. Col. Jeffery Harrigian, 43rd Fighter Squadron commander, delivered “Raptor 18,” the wing’s first F/A-22. This marked the beginning of the F/A-22 era at Tyndall. Tyndall has had more than 65 different types of aircraft assigned to the base for various types of training since opening in 1941.










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to come out ahead
of the pack.

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